

STATINTL

Skolnick links Conspiracy, CIA

By MARY LOFTUS

Sherman Skolnick, sponsored by the Freshman Law Students, spoke to an audience that overflowed 141 Commerce West on Tuesday night. The speech centered on the third point of the Citizen's Committee to Clean up the Courts.

Collusion, according to Skolnick, was exemplified in the Chicago 7 Conspiracy Trial—collusion of the Chicago 7 and the CIA. "When the rhetoric and the philosophy are dispensed with," he said, the facts emerge.

'Incredible' facts

Yet, the rhetoric and the seeming philosophy were utilized by Skolnick to reach the audience. Consequently, the emerging facts tended to be less credible, since he seemed to lack his own advice.

The facts became vague, a hint, implied. The correlational quality of Skolnick's material did not necessarily mean causation. Discreditation of the peace movement was not the case in fact, but the case in hint.

Skolnick's implications tried to link the Chicago Conspiracy with the CIA through funding, through "front conduits," and through Chicago newspapers.

Federal funding?

The funding was due to the financing of Rennie Davis and Tom Hayden, according to Skolnick, and persons connected with them in the National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam were funded by federal money channeled to them through government-front organizations.

"\$192,000 in federal money and \$85,000 from the Carnegie Foundation (a suspected C.I.A. conduit) were funneled to Tom Hayden, Rennie Davis, et al., and others through a front calling itself the Chicago Student Health Organization," he said.

Terms such as Rennie Davis' "nefarious interests" Tom Hayden's "numerous benefits," and Abbie Hoffman "staying at the home of the Sun-Times editor," all contributed to a growing inability for the audience to lend any of Skolnick's reports' credence.

Little credibility

The lack of credibility seemed to evolve when Skolnick was questioned concerning the validity of his sources, the sketchiness of the speech, and the facts for further reference. This is not to say that Skolnick did not have some facts worthy of note. The suggestion seemed to be to "do some thinking, there is always a possibility."

Discreditation of the peace movement was the implication, and the possibility of the C.I.A. as a factor influencing the Conspiracy Trial was the overt cause. Somehow the tie between the two, although a possibility, seemed to be some what of a dirt-slinging against the radical revolutionaries. "Abbie Hoffman's main function other than clowning around is the distribution of some 3 to 5 million dollars of dope at each Rock Festival."